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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PARKLAND ACQUIRED FOR WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK RESERVE

Metro Vancouver recently added 6.6 hectares of land to Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve. The property is located in the City of Coquitlam, on the western bank of the Pitt River and supports a rich, ecologically sensitive intertidal marsh and riparian habitat. The steep backdrop of Pinecone Burke Provincial Park lies immediately to the west. The new parcel, along with similar habitat in adjacent protected areas such as the Pitt-Addington Marsh Wildlife Management Area, represent the most extensive freshwater tidal marsh wetland in the lower mainland and comprise one of the largest waterfowl reserve areas in Canada.

Metro Vancouver purchased the property for $3.8 million in November 2007. The Province of British Columbia, through the BC Trust for Public Lands, donated $200,000 towards the purchase. The trust fund was established by the province to support biodiversity conservation in BC.

"Metro Vancouver is proud to add this beautiful, piece of property to the regional parks and greenways system. This action reinforces our commitment made under the 2005 Regional Parks and Greenways Plan to protect and enhance regional landscapes, biodiversity and heritage features. We thank the province for their contribution through the BC Trust for Public Land," said Councillor Gayle Martin, Metro Vancouver Parks Committee Chair.

In 1992 Metro Vancouver (then GVRD) and Nature Trust of BC, on behalf of the Pacific Estuary Conservation program, partnered to purchase 580 hectares of land to establish Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve. The protected waterways of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park are very popular with recreation and wildlife enthusiasts, especially in the summer. Once planning has been completed, this new purchase will serve as a gateway to the park along the only land-based access road.

For information about regional parks and greenways, visit www.metrovancouver.org.

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View attachments for *Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve*

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NEW PARKLAND ACQUIRED FOR WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK RESERVE

Attachment 1

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve, located at the entrance to Pitt Lake

Photo Credit: © Metro Vancouver, 2008

Attachment 2

- Sub-Regional Context -
Proposed Widgeon Marsh Acquisitions